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**Wednesday, November 24, 1999**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication  
**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942** **www.justthefacts.tm**

*Don't miss our annual*  
**Homecoming Open House**  
*Friday & Saturday*  
*Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert*  
 702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

**Kick off the holiday season!**  
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**Fact-based movie contains much fiction, subject says**

ROSSVILLE—Movies based on true stories aren't always true to the stories on which they're based, according to a local woman.

Three years ago, Shirley Allison received a kidney from her grandson, Daniel Huffman. Huffman's donation cut short a promising football career but led to cable network movie, "Gift of Life: The Daniel Huffman Story."

The movie, playing on Showtime, keeps some facts accurate but changes others.

"I'll never believe a true life story again," Allison said. "They changed a lot of facts."

One thing that was added is a scene of Allison, played by Debbie Reynolds, slapping Huffman, played by Elden Hensen. "I didn't like (that)," Allison said. "That never happened."

Allison said she would have known about the scene had she read the whole script. After reading the first 16 pages of the screen version of her experience, "I thought 'I can't do this' and threw it aside."

Huffman, she said, tried to get the scene changed but was unable to do so. "Once you sign the contract, that's it," Allison said. "They can do what they want."

She is also not pleased about the way her husband,

Daniel, is portrayed. "I didn't like the minimal way they had my husband played in the movie," she said. "He played a major role."

The movie shows Huffman taking his grandmother to dialysis treatments but Allison said it was her husband who did that most of the time. "He took off work to take me three days a week and then he had to find something to do for two and a half hours," she said.


The final exaggeration comes in one of the movie's final scenes when the Florida State University head football coach in Bobcat country. "Bobby Bowden never came to Rossville," Allison said.

The movie may not be exactly true-to-life, but some scenes are authentic, including scenes showing the night before the transplant.

Reynolds' depiction of Allison is also accurate. "I thought Debbie had me to a T," Allison said.

Reynolds visited Rossville to study Allison's manner—**See MOVIE on other side**

**Hoopeston Gun Show**



9 a.m.-4 p.m. December 4 & 5  
 McFerren Park Civic Center  
 For information, call  
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**Briefly**

**Tiny Tots**

Tiny Tots will not be held this week.

**Thanks given**

Rossville superintendent Lance Deck would like to thank Rainwater Tree Service for helping him and his wife put Christmas lights on the village Christmas tree at the mini-park.

**Card shower**

Helen Cox will celebrate her 88th birthday on Thursday, Nov. 25 and would enjoy hearing from friends. Her address is Hoopeston Nursing Home, Rm. 38-2, 701 E. Orange, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Friends may also call her at (217) 283-5742.

**Special Christmas Open House**  
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 **Police News** 

**Thieves hit local semi trucks**  
 Hoopeston police are investigating five reports of items stolen from semi trucks.  
 The burglaries all occurred between Sunday night and Monday morning on trucks parked in the 100 block of North Sixth Ave., according to reports.  
 Items taken include citizen band radios, video games, a cell phone and an undetermined amount of cash.

In other police news:  
 A **flag and flagpole** were reported missing Monday from the 700 block of West Lincoln.

**Movie** continued from other side  
 isms and wardrobe. "As she told me when she was here, 'I've never played a living person before,'" Allison said.  
 The two women visited and Reynolds went through Allison's wardrobe and accessories. "She looked at my big earrings and asked 'do you really wear these,'" Allison said. "I said 'yes, I do.' She said 'you don't have any on today. I said I was just trying to be sedate.'"  
 Allison and her family saw the movie at a premier earlier this month at Florida State University. Hansen and Ed Marinaro, who plays a Rossville football coach in the movie, also attended.

**Obituaries**

**CLINGENPEEL**—Bessie Mae Clingenpeel, 72, of Milford, died at 8:50 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999 at Good Samaritans Hospital, Vincennes, Ind. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.

**JOHNSON**—Harry L. Johnson, 87, of Hoopeston, died at 9:07 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 12-2 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

A **black bicycle** was found Tuesday in the 300 block of South Market. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

An **undisclosed** amount of cash was reported missing Tuesday from the 600 block of South Dixie Hwy. A floor was also damaged.

**John A. Zollar**, 43, of 35867N 2150e Rd., Rossville, turned himself in to police at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. Zollar, wanted on a warrant, was released on cash bond.

A **tool box** was found Tuesday in the 600 block of West Orange. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

What the premier didn't show, but what is included in the television airings is Huffman explaining organ donation and asking people to become organ donors. That footage was added at Huffman's request, Allison said, adding her grandson refused to sign the contract unless the information was included.

Allison said she had signed up to be an organ donor before she required dialysis. "I was among the first group to sign up to be a donor," she said. "You never know how things are going to turn out."

"Gift of Life: The Daniel Huffman story will air again on Thanksgiving Day and Nov. 28 and again on Dec. 1 and 4 on Showtime2.

**In the Hospital** 

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
 Nov. 22

**Admitted:** Carmen Torres, Howard Bray, Zachary Burton, Naomi Bowen, Hoopeston.

**Discharged:** Carmen Torres.

**Weather** 

Partly sunny today. High 50. Tonight, clear. Low 28. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 50, low 27. Friday, partly cloudy. High 55, low 47.


For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.



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